filled before granting approval for conducting various courses by Education Institutions. These Councils have brought to the notice of the Government some cases of Medical & Dental Colleges having been set up through their do not fulfil the prescribed standards. The Govt. of India have been requesting various State Govts. from time to time not to permit the opening of Medical and Dental Colleges which do not fulfil the minimum standards prescribed by the concerned Councils. There are no provisions in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 or in the Dentists Act, 1948 requiring prior permission of the concerned Council before establishing a Medical/Dental College. This lacunae is proposed to be removed by bringing in suitable amendments to both these Acts.

3562. [*Trqnsferred to the* 27th *March,* 1992]

Health service in Kashmir Valley

3563. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the health services in the Kashmir Valley have come to a standstill ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that PHCs and other health care set ups are non-functional and the people are suffering ; and

(c) what measures are being taken to remedy the situation and to reach the suffering population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) The State Government has informed that the infrastructure of public health services in the valley is working normally and rendering health care services.

Society for Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health

3564. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a society called "Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health" and if so the expenditure envisaged thereon ;

(b) whether there is a need of society and what are the objectives ; and

(c) whether it is advisable to set up a new venture with high financial implications when existing voluntary organisation like the Voluntary Health Association of India and other can be utilized for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) A proposal to set up a Society called "Voluntary Action for Family Welfare and Health (VAFAH)" is under consideration. Its expenditure levels and other parameters are yet to be decided.

(b) Family Welfare has by and large remained as a Government's programme. For making it a peoples' programme, it is felt that greater number of non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) including Voluntary agencies and grass root level organisations representing the people should come up for implementing this programme. For this purpose a need has been felt for setting up a specific organisation outside the Government which could deal with the NGOs and enjoy the necessary autonomy and flexibility which is not available within the Government. The main objectives of VAFAH are to identify, motivate and promote existing or new NGOs to undertake model schemes to be drawn up by the Society and render